

November 19, 1999

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall numbers 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, and 595. I was unavoidably detained and therefore could not vote for this legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall numbers 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593 and 594. I would have voted "no" for rollcall number 595.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL TERRELL

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a Kentucky teacher from my district who has achieved national recognition for his exemplary role in educating young students. Michael Terrell of Louisville is one of 29 teachers from across the country selected for USA TODAY'S 1999 ALL-USA Teacher Team. He should be extremely proud to have been both nominated by a colleague and to have received an award conferred on the most impressive teachers in the nation. In light of constant stories about the crisis in our nation's schools, it is vital that we recognize the dedication and outstanding achievements of our teachers. It is my honor to pay tribute to someone who has made such a difference to so many children.

Michael Terrell has had a distinguished career as a primary teacher for 27 years, including 18 years at Cochran Elementary School where he currently teaches first and second grades. Thanks to Michael Terrell's devotion and selfless contributions, the Cochran Elementary School is filled with spirit and activism. His hard work and dedication to making schools better and improving the lives of his students, both encourages parents to get involved and sets an example for all teachers to follow. He is one of the people who helps create the vitality of Cochran Elementary School and his enthusiasm creates a can-do attitude. He is responsible for the many successes there which, in turn, positively affect our entire community's well-being.

Mr. Terrell is a teacher who knows how to get the job done. He knows it takes hard work, it takes flexibility, and it takes a commitment to each child. I was proud to hear that Michael Terrell supports what this Congress is trying to do—give schools and teachers the ability to make the choices which best reflect their students needs. We are all in agreement that such changes will help improve education—for Michael Terrell and his students. Because of all he does, I salute Michael Terrell for working so hard to make our schools a flourishing environment for our children to learn, grow and play.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO RONALD L. BOOK

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ronald L. Book, one of Florida's truly remarkable citizens. Without ever holding elective public office, Ron Book has had a tremendous and positive influence on our state and our community for over 25 years.

Ron's tireless efforts and knowledge of both government and business has led to hundreds of millions of dollars in private and public investment in Miami-Dade County and throughout the State of Florida, resulting in the creation of thousands of new job opportunities, improving the quality of life for our citizens and greatly enhancing our position as a destination of choice for vacationers and sports enthusiasts from around the nation and the world.

His efforts on behalf of the homeless and dozens of charitable organizations ranging from the Special Olympics to the Epilepsy Foundation to the Humane Society are not well-publicized, but they point out that, when it comes to community service, Ron Book is all business. In the highest traditions of public service, he is most generous with his time and attention in helping people who cannot themselves solve the problems that they face.

I have known Ron Book since he was just a youngster, making a name for himself working on local campaigns. As is the case today, everyone who met him then was impressed with his intelligence, hard work, devotion to principle and leadership capabilities. No one was surprised that Ron served as Vice President of his High School Class, or served in the University of Florida's Student Senate, or that he started working for a Florida legislator before he even graduated from college.

Because of his interest in government and desire to develop his own considerable capabilities, law school was a natural next step for Ron, as were his service as a Special Assistant to Governor Bob Graham; his employment in two of Florida's preeminent law firms; and the creation of his own law firm.

On December 14, 1999, Ron Book's achievements will be recognized at a testimonial dinner sponsored by the American Association of Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem's first hospital and one of Israel's preeminent medical care facilities. Mr. Book will be presented Bikur Cholim's International Brotherhood Award in recognition of this outstanding contributions to both his profession and our community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join with me in congratulating Ronald L. Book on this great honor.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI GERSHON AND SHARENE JOHNSON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Gershon and Sharene

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Johnson in honor of their "Silver Celebration" at Temple Beth Haverim in Agoura Hills, California. This loving couple has spent 25 years as leaders in the Jewish community, both spiritually and educationally.

Rabbi Gershon Johnson has served as Rabbi at Temple Beth Haverim since 1988. He is described by many as the temple's incomparable spiritual leader. His devotion and expertise as a Rabbi are evident in his presence as a chaplain for the Southern California Board of Rabbis. He has always been extremely interested in passing on his love for and knowledge of Judaism. The Elderhostel program at the Brandeis Bardin Institute has benefited from Rabbi Gershon's knowledge, and he is one of their most popular teachers. He also has been instrumental in introducing religion to beginners through his "Introduction to Judaism" class sponsored by the University of Judaism.

Sharene Johnson is the wife of Rabbi Gershon, and has worked for the betterment of the Jewish community in many different ways. She has taught at several Jewish day schools throughout the United States, and has been involved in programming and consulting at Jewish resource centers as well. Her leadership has shone through as chairperson on the Principal's Council at the Bureau of Jewish Education. For the past 11 years, she has passed on her wealth of experience and knowledge as Director of Education at Temple Ner Marev in Encino, California. The Jewish community also enjoys her teaching through adult workshops and her conducting of a women's Torah Study class at Temple Beth Haverim.

In addition to their devotion to the temple, they have become a model of excellent family life and values. Rabbi Gershon teaches the "Making Marriage Work" program at the University of Judaism. Sharene leads several family workshops each year, and has spent much of her time working with families and children. They have been happily married for 27 years and have raised 3 wonderful children—Gavi, Rachel, and Aliza.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Rabbi Gershon and Sharene Johnson. They are both deserving of our utmost respect and praise.

HONORING EDWARD WEISS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service, when performed wisely and well, is the most noble of callings. I speak today to honor a man who has been in public service and who performed in just those ways. Edward Weiss is retiring from the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, after 30 years of service.

In his many capacities with the Department, Ed has received outstanding performance ratings from every United States Attorney General under whom he has served since 1981. He is well known for his ability to prepare and litigate cases. He also coordinated the Criminal Alien Program for the New Jersey District.